

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/28438

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F16L 35/00 37/00 55/00

US CL : 285/382, 333, 390, 114, 29/507,522.1,523

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 285/382, 333, 390, 114, 29/507,522.1,523

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WIPO 200201102 A1 (Coulon et al.) 03 January 2002 (03-01-02), see expanded threaded members 11,12 and groove 21 or 14 which will inherently act as a stress concentrator as applies in the present invention except in claims 18 and 37-39 where no stress concentrator is claimed.	1,3-7,14-20,22-25,27-42
Y	US 6,390,720 A (LeBegue et al.) 21 May 2002 (21-05-02), see column 2, lines 55-65 and stress relief grooves 36 shown internally in fig. 2 and noted to be either single, plural or helical.	8-12,21,26 8-12,21 and 26
X	US 5,667,252 A (Schafer et al) 16 September 1997 (16-09-97), see fig. 3 which shows tube 200 expanded to tube 202.	42 A 11

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 January 2005 (19.01.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

14 MAR 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

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